



M E D I A R E L E A S E

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE

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“CHANGE YOUR CLOCK, CHANGE YOUR BATTERY”

Reminder to change your smoke detector batteries on Halloween night

NASHVILLE, TENN. - The Tennessee State Fire Marshal's office is reminding all Tennesseans that Saturday night is not only Halloween eve, but it is also the time to set your clocks back one hour and put a new battery in your home smoke alarm.

The “Change your clock, Change your battery” message is part of setting a life-saving national discipline for Americans to maintain their smoke alarms and check them at least twice a year.

According to the National Fire Prevention Association, Tennessee ranks second in the U.S. in its fire death rate. In 2003, there were an estimated 155 fire-related deaths in Tennessee. National statistics indicate that a working smoke alarm can at least double your chances of survival if there's a fire in your home.

Here's what experts recommend regarding smoke alarms:

- Every home needs at least one smoke alarm to provide early warning of a fire.
- Smoke alarms should be installed outside every sleeping area and on each level of the home. Make sure that everyone can hear the alarm and knows what it sounds like.
- If you sleep with your bedroom door closed, install an additional alarm in your bedroom.
- Smoke alarms need to be maintained according to the manufacturer of the alarm's instructions.
- Test the alarm frequently and replace batteries at least once a year.
- The smoke alarms themselves should be replaced every ten years.
- Have a fire escape plan and teach it to your children.
- When the smoke alarm sounds, get out of the home immediately and go to your meeting place.

“Smoke alarms save lives – and a working smoke alarm is the best insurance against becoming a casualty of fire,” said Paula Flowers, Tennessee Fire Marshal. “Firefighters too often find that in fatal fires, there was a smoke detector in the home, but the batteries had been removed.”

Many local fire departments have supplies of donated smoke alarms, and many departments will help install them in the homes of the elderly and disabled. For more information, visit www.tennessee.gov/firesafety/.

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